(v) following step (iv), returning the extracted gas to the enclosure.

Appendix A attached hereto illustrates the changes made to claim 1.

REMARKS

In reviewing the subject application, it was noted that a typographical error appeared in claim 1. More specifically and as noted in the "Summary of the Invention," on page 3, beginning on line 9, the method of the subject invention, extracted gases are first passed through a medium selected to reduce the water vapor content of the extracted gas and then through a second medium selected to reduce the organic vapor content of the extracted gas. Original claim 1 incorrectly referred to the extraction of water vapor content in both steps "(ii)" and "(iii)." Step "(iii)" has now been changed to be consistent with the specification and recite that passing the gas through the second medium is intended to remove the organic vapor content thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

1. (A method of minimizing contamination of optical components of a laser, the components being located in an gaseous atmosphere within an enclosure, the gaseous atmosphere capable of containing contaminants including water vapor, organic vapor, and suspended particulate matter, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) extracting gas from the atmosphere within the enclosure;

(ii) passing the extracted gas through a first medium selected to reduce the water vapor content thereof;

(iii) following step (ii), passing the extracted gas through a second medium selected to reduce the [water] organic vapor content thereof;

(iv) following step (iii) passing the extracted gas through a filter selected to reduce the particulate matter content thereof;

(v) following step (iv), returning the extracted gas to the enclosure.